

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4 and 7 in accordance with the following:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):

A database updating apparatus comprising:

a ~~computer~~ network;

a server ~~which provides~~ arranged to provide database-related information, via ~~through~~ the ~~computer~~ network; and

a user computer ~~which accesses~~ arranged to access the server, via ~~through~~ the ~~computer~~ network, and ~~retrieves~~ to retrieve the database-related information,

wherein: the user computer comprises an optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus, and is configured to which:

~~records~~ record data ~~in on~~ and ~~reproduces~~ reproduce data from an optical disc, in which a database and a date and time of a last update of the database are recorded,

~~transmits~~ transmit the date and time of the last update to the server,

~~records~~ record modified/updated data for initial data of the database on the optical disc; ~~and~~

wherein the server determines if modification/update of the database recorded on the optical disc is needed based on the transmitted date and time, and transmits the modified/updated data to the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus, and

wherein: the initial data of the database is recorded in a read only region of the optical disc prior to a first access of the server by the user computer, and the modified/updated data for the initial data of the database transmitted from the server is recorded in a recordable region of the optical disc.

Claim 2 (Cancelled):

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the server transmits a purchase order, which is received from the user computer, to the user computer and the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus records the purchase order on the optical disc.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of updating a database comprising:
permitting a user computer usable with an optical disc, on which a vendor database is recorded in a read only region of the optical disc, to access a server of the database vendor, via ~~through a computer network~~;
receiving a date and time of a last update of the database recorded in a recordable region of the optical disc from the user computer, and determining whether modification/update of the database is needed based on the received date and time;
transmitting modified/updated data to the user computer if modification/update is needed;
and
recording the modified/updated data in the recordable region of the optical disc.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 4, further comprising:
recording a new date and time of last update of the disc in the recordable region.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 4, further comprising:
transmitting a purchase order ~~of the user~~ from the user computer to the vendor server;
transmitting information related to the purchase order from the vendor server to the user computer; and
recording the purchase order information on the recordable region of the optical disc.

Claims 8-27(Cancelled)

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A method of distributing and maintaining a database, the method comprising:

- distributing an optical disc having a read-only region in which a data base corresponding to a first date and time is recorded and a recordable region in which the first date and time is recorded;
- operating the optical disc in a user computer having an optical disc reproducing/recording apparatus;
- maintaining update data for the data base corresponding to a second date and time when the data base was updated on a server;
- accessing the server and transmitting the first date and time to the server;
- comparing the first date and time with the second date and time;
- transmitting the update data and the second date and time to the user computer if the second date and time is later than the first date and time;
- storing the update data in the recordable region of the optical disc; and
- updating the first date and time stored in the recordable region to the second date and time.